

## Sisters' Society C. E.

### A Prayer

IDA A. HUSHOWER

Lord, I am poor and weak,  
I cannot go alone;  
Take thou, I pray, my hand,  
And lead me with thine own.  
  
Take thou, I pray, my heart;  
It is a heart of stone;  
Make it a temple pure,  
Where thou canst dwell alone.

Take thou my weary feet,  
And keep them day by day;  
Oh, do not let them free  
In wicked paths to stray.

Take thou my talent, Lord,  
It is no longer mine;  
Take all I have—yes, Lord,  
Take me, for I am thine.

—Religious Telescope.

### THE MODEL SOCIETY

MRS. E. B. WISE

There was once a great Teacher in Galilee who honored woman's love when He sat and talked with Mary and with Martha. He opened for woman a way of redemption when He stayed the lifted stone, and he felt the power of woman's love when looking down from Calvary's cross; He saw her face the last. Woman means much to God's work, and woman's hands and mind and heart, when sanctified mean more for good of nations than standing armies or millions in her treasuries; every year avenues for Christian work are widening and lengthening; every year, it seems that greater needs are facing us, and that more clearly sounds the Master's voice. "Go ye into my Vineyard." Can anything be sadder than to poorly do our work for the Master? It is not enough to be faithful to forms and creeds and rules; it is not enough to pray for wisdom and for skill. We must think and plan and work for wisest ends and best results.

Have we sisters, who are members of our S. S. C. E. any patron saint? If we have I guess it must be "Dorcas," for "Dorcas" we are told, made her "garments for the poor." We are also told that she was much beloved and we know that she was needed. Needle, thread and thimble are only little things, but is it not the "little" that shall "confound the mighty," and is not life after all made beautiful or sad, by how we do its little things? I think our church would miss us if we gave up our work! But are we making as strong and holy as we can the work we have set out to do? "Is our society a model one?" If not, how can we make it so?

First of all what about that plain command: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do with thy might." Half hearted workers never amount to much, and, if prayerfully we put the needs of God's great, beautiful word into the stitches that we take, even into the garments we may cut and baste, and perhaps into some loaf of bread we bake, we'll do each with a will, a skill, a self disinterestedness that will show forth in their finish, as

nothing else can show. Does your society work for you, and mine for me mean all, perhaps, that some other work may mean? If it does not, then we are slighting it. Somehow it seems so easy to do God's work more carelessly than any other; and yet, dear friends, all other work will count for naught when final reckonings come. This work for God which we are trying to do is worth tiring ourselves for now and then. Christ grew wearied very often, and yet He did not falter because He knew His time was limited, and souls were starving for the bread of life. Your time may be limited and so may mine; "Work while the day lasts, for the night cometh when no man can work." Do you know that millions of dollars are annually wasted or bartered for sin, which women could gather up for God if they tried but half as hard as they ought to try. We make our housekeeping so hard sometimes that we are all "tuckered out" when God's house needs caring for. Is that right?

Let us put one less ruffle on some garment of our own, and then, maybe we can make one more apron, piece a few more patches, or cut out some little dress, that will mean another quarter for the saving of souls. Every member of our society who dreads the coming of meeting days, or picks up with a sigh her thimble, thread and needle, is needing sadly some spiritual repairing somewhere, and when we all feel so, God can not bless our work. "He loveth a cheerful giver," and that means givers of strength as well as givers of dollars. Along with earnestness goes faithfulness, and the uncertain members of any society are those who do it little good. A society must know upon whom it can depend, both spiritually and financially, and when a sister meets with us one week, but, for some trivial engagement is absent on another, there is a weakening of force that no leader can make good. Not leaders, but common members make the strength of organizations, and that wise Teacher knew this when he uttered those few words: "Be thou faithful over a few things and I will make thee ruler over many things." Even God's earnest workers grow discouraged now and then, and empty chairs and work with no hands ready for it make often the faithful few disheartened when they cannot understand it. Just because Christ is not with us bodily we slight him, but don't you think he feels the slight, and will not the work that is hindered by that slight plead against us further on?

God keeps better account than we do, He's a proud God and each work that's done for him, He would have done first class. It is not enough to be earnest and faithful: we must aim when we are together to make our meeting an inspiration for every one. There is much of help or hindrance in even the things we talk about and in the way we say them. The days are past when gossip should be tolerated and every woman should always aim to bring some thought or fact which will comfort, help or educate some sister woman. So much of life is wasted in trifles and the

trifling and the holy never look well together. Now and then one might read while others sew, or perhaps some one could sing a song, or repeat some sweet old poem that might have a sermon in it. God's work should be made attractive just as well as any other, and between all members of the model society there should be true companionship, honesty and candor. If not true to each other we cannot be true to God. We must not become mercenary and gild over any trickeries that may win us extra dollars. God's dollars want to be clean and must pass into his treasuries with no unrighteous way or means. We must not grow miserly. Dorcas gave away many things and the things unpaid for here may be paid for further on. As was Dorcas, so must we, be friend to widow to fatherless and orphan, we dare not make discriminations, for Christ went everywhere. No work for Him can be exclusive and to need of dying saint or that of their or fallen sister we must gladly turn if He commands us. There is always danger of having some pet "hobby" even in religion, and we must not over do along some lines, and leave crying needs in others. We all know the different purposes for the support of which we pledge ourselves, and we must not forget them.

In the Model Society there can be no slighting of our work. Don't you think God sees poorly made garments and poorly cooked meals? I do. I do not think He rates as high even a slighted apron, as perhaps a well hemmed dish cloth. God's workers should not give chance for work for Him to be spoken of unkindly, and if we think about it, we are hardly fit to pray when carelessly we have worked. The time is coming, for God is managing things his own way, when the Christian church shall be the glory of all men, and when that time does come, higher than all power within it should be the power of Christian womanhood. We can never bring this to pass sisters until in all things we are true until we let no trivial cause stand between us and our duty, and until we feel that we should grow for Christ. Our meetings held monthly should be made so attractive that all would love to come, and when they have come could go away at their closing feeling that it was "good to be there" and that, within the house of God, was something worth far more than what could elsewhere be obtained. We must also be business like in our work for Him, and we must not forget that Christ's work cannot be run alone by prayer and Psalm singing. It needs pennies and dollars to carry the Gospel and the mission work along, and some pocket books would open wider if only we asked the Lord to put his hand upon the clasp.

He who formed all things by one great plan and left no room for discords or mistakes, likes prayerful planning and righteous managing among his children. Societies without rules, and without rules closely kept, soon find mistakes and perhaps misunderstandings.